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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Steven Reppert et al.

Art Unit : 1646

Serial No. : 09/226,046

Examiner : M. Pak

Filed : January 5, 1999

Title : HIGH-AFFINITY MELATONIN RECEPTOR AND USES THEREOF

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TECH CENTER 1600-2900

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed June 17, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 55 and 79 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 80, 81, 83, and 84 as follows:

-- 80. (Amended) A method of testing a candidate compound for the ability to act as an agonist of a high affinity melatonin receptor ligand, said method comprising:

a) contacting said candidate compound with a cell comprising an expression vector encoding a high-affinity melatonin receptor protein, wherein the expression vector comprises a sequence that hybridizes to a probe having the sequence of the complement of SEQ ID NO:5 under the following conditions: hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M sodium chloride, 1% SDS, 10% dextran sulfate, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm at 42 °C, and filters washed in 2x SSC, 1% SDS at 65 °C for 1 hour;

b) measuring intracellular cAMP concentration in said cell; and

c) where said contacting causes a decrease in intracellular cAMP concentration, identifying said candidate compound as an agonist of a high affinity melatonin receptor ligand.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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